

Vol. III. No. 8. April 15, 1928



## .... and then in 1928 came a great turning point in the history of the picture industry.

"That year First National broke with FIVE famous recordbreakers right off the bat!

"Colleen Moore in 'Her Wild Oat', Richard Barthelmess in 'The Patent Leather Kid', 'The Private Life of Helen of Troy', 'Shepherd of the Hills' by Harold Bell Wright, and Richard Barthelmess in 'The Noose'—one right after another! And each one better than the last.

"Of course everybody remembers these great hits today, just as they remember 'Abraham Lincoln,' 'The Sea Hawk,' and 'Birth of a Nation'. But the thing few people realize is that these five pictures that have come down in history were released in A SINGLE MONTH by A SINGLE COMPANY.

"And on top of that First National followed right up with a dozen others just as big, including Colleen Moore in 'Lilac Time', Richard Barthelmess in 'The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come', Charlie Murray in 'Vamping Venus', Johnny Hines in 'Chinatown Charlie', Harry Langdon in 'The Chaser', 'Ladies' Night in a Turkish Bath' with Jack Mulhall and Dorothy Mackaill, and Charlie Murray and George Sidney in 'Flying Romeos'.

"What a season that was!

"Of course all my house records were knocked sky-high.

"I remember as though it were yesterday how completely these great hits took the trade by storm.

"That one season started me on the road to success in the picture game. Those great FIRST NATIONAL pictures go a long way toward explaining my position as the dominant exhibitor in this territory today!"

# irst National Pictures laking GOOD and Making HISTORY !

Member of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America Inc. - Will H. Hays President

## made more money with 'The Patent Leath Kid' than wi

\*Fill in here the titles of any two of the greatest Specials of the past or present and you will have the gist of scores of exhibitors' reports. Remember that the 'Kid' is not merely a Record-Breaker .... It is the BIGGEST Money Maker for Exhibitors in many seasons!



or



Walter F. Eberhardt, Editor.

Vol. III.



Monthly by First National Pictures, Inc., 383 Madison Avenue, N. Y. C. Herbert Walton,

1 700

No. 8

April 15, 1928

## **Coming** Events

HE long lines waiting outside theatres showing First National Pictures are shadows for 1928-9's coming events. First National has built a solid foundation of entertainment values to lead up to the greatest year in its history.

Never before has First National received so many compliments from exhibitors as during the past year. For the second consecutive year Colleen Moore, through pictures like "Naughty But Nice" and "Her Wild Oat" has won the exhibitor vote as the most valuable name in the industry.

We are particularly proud of the huge grosses rolled up for exhibitors by "The Patent Leather Kid" starring Richard Barthelmess, one of the biggest attractions of any year.

Of the other specials, "The Shepherd of the Hills" has made more friends for First National than almost any other picture and "The Private Life of Helen of Troy" has drawn people into theatres who never attended a movie before. And the fans, exhibitors tell us, are still chuckling over the mystery-comedy special, "The Gorilla."

We are especially happy that a great star like Richard Barthelmess has appeared, in such profitable pictures for exhibitors, in addition to "The Patent Leather Kid," as "The Noose" and "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come."

It is really gratifying to be told that Billie Dove in "The Stolen Bride," "American Beauty" and "The Love Mart" has added to her rapidly growing popularity and that Milton Sills has reached a new peak of popularity as the result of his work in "The Valley of the Giants" and "Burning Daylight."

As long as those two clever players, Dorothy Mackaill and Jack Mulhall can turn out box office successes like "Smile Brother Smile," "Ladies' Night" and "Lady Be Good" we know exhibitors will continue to turn to First National for leadership in this field.

Ken Maynard, according to the many exhibitor letters reaching us, is without peer among western action stars.

Again First National will give unqualified support to exhibitors through the summer months by releasing pictures of mighty box-office value—pictures that will bring winter profits throughout the summer months.

Two great Colleen Moore pictures, "Heart to Heart" and "Oh Kay"; a comedy riot, "Vamping Venus" with Charlie Murray and Louise Fazenda; Richard Barthelmess will follow his series of successes with two more knockouts, "Roulette" and "Out of the Ruins"; Billie Dove is at her best in "The Yellow Lily"; Milton Sills in "The Hawk's Nest," a stirring drama; "Harold Teen," a comedy sensation, and Ken Maynard in "Code of the Scarlet," are other First National pictures that will keep box-office records at the peak.

It is an indication of what can be expected for the 1928-9 season from First National. It means that the box office lines of this year are the shadows of next year's record breaking events.

Complete details will be published in the Announcement Number of First National News dated May 1. We urge you to watch for it.

Thea & Depinet.

### Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Who is Colleen Moore's leading man in "Lilac Time"? Answer on Page 6.

2. For what picture is Jack Mulhall playing the title role? Answer on Page 15.

3. What First National star reads First National NEWS? Answer on Page 15.

4. What box-office picture has First National made from a comic strip? Answer on Page 9.

5 What are the two Chasers of Butte, Mont.? Answer on Page 16.

6. Can you solve the press sheet puzzle on "Harold Teen"? Question on Page 19, answer on Page 21.

7. Who is Manager of the Tower, St. Paul? Answer on Page 15.

8. Who is the "Roxy" of Brewster, N. Y.? Answer on Page 4.

9. With what star has Virginia Brown Faire just played? Answer on Page 18.

10. Can you name two new First National directors? Answer on Page 17.

### Issued Semi-Monthly





They Make Summer Velvet Through Picking Up Winter Hits, and Boy



WM. O'NEILL

An Interview with WILLIAM O'NEILL, President, and FEORA MARASCO, Secy.-Treas., Brewster Theatre Corp., Brewster, N. Y.

'NEILL and Marasco have discovered that there is a big demand for big specials that have played Broadway at \$2.20 top, among the summer colonists who intended to see them in the city but never got around to doing it. They make a profit in the summer by looking up the pictures the summer vacationists overlooked in the winter.

Every summer settler who comes within the radius served by the theatre is canvassed upon arrival. Among other question, they are asked what pictures they would like to see at the Cameo during the summer evenings. The replies are carefully filed. When a sufficient demand is shown for any particular picture, it is booked and the people who asked for it are advised of its play date.

How this system for summer profits originated and some of its curious twists form a story of unusual showmanship slants.

First-meet the factors involved.

There's Dad O'Neill, genial septogenarian who is known to film salesmen as the "Roxy" of Brewster. He furnishes the guiding power for the Cameo Theatre from his 50 years experience in the show game.

There's Feora Marasco, whom Dad has trained as his partner for the past 15 years, the active executive who keeps the wheels running.

There's Brewster, a calm community of 1500 modestly-incomed people, dependent in large measure upon the railroad for its upsand-downs bounded, from a competitive theatrical standpoint, by Danbury ten miles east, by Lake Mahopac ten miles southwest and Mt. Kisco, fifteen miles south.

There's Brewster's only theatre, the Cameo, an attractive 425 seater. It shows twice nightly on week days for which it gets 35 cents top. Saturdays there are five acts of vaudeville and a matinee added for which the night prices are 60 cents.

#### 75c High Mark

Occasionally, when a big special like "The Sea Hawk" comes along, a 75 cent price is charged.

Getting those admissions out of a town situated as Brewster is, is a feat in itself; but they do it despite obstacles. The town is small, the surrounding country is undeveloped and sparsely populated, except for one thing-

The summer colonists have swarmed into the surrounding lake regions in great numbers. As a result the Cameo, unlike most theatres, finds summertime the time when it shows a difference between a living struggle and a fair profit on its investment.

"When we got the idea of canvassing the summer colonists we got some surprising results," Showman O'Neill volunteered. "We found that many of them had overlooked the big pictures shown on Broadway during the

winter. They had always wanted to see them but something had come up at the last moment to stop them."

"So we book the big ones they missed at home and tell them we've booked them," Business Manager Marasco added.

#### Broadway "Rep" Counts

"We found that those are the pictures they want to see because they've heard some one else talk about them. We got quite a kick out of having New Yorkers come to Brewster to see the big pictures; but we've realized what an opportunity it is for us," Dad O'Neill commented.

"We find that it pays us to see what the summer colony wants to see," Marasco summed up.

"A Broadway run means a lot to the fans here" O'Neill concluded "We've got the 'Patent Leather Kid' booked for a run at advance prices; and we know now it's going over just

because the folks are aware that in ran 16 weeks on Broadway at \$2.20 top.'

No "Lay-offs" Here "And don't forget, the summer colonists aren't worrying over how many people the railroad may lay off next week," Mr. Marasco added significantly.

They've gone to unusual steps, these two, to visualize an opportunity for additional patronage. Now that they've found it they're going to unusual steps to keep it.

With every change of bills a man and a machine make the rounds of the summer colonies posting new window cards. On occasion the advertising bill has been known to run as high as \$283 one one attraction.

Small? For a 425 seat theatre it's a good percentage per seat, even when allowance is made for the inclusion of Mt. Kisco and Danbury papers to cover a radius of about 15 mlies in every direction.

### ANOTHER BIG HIT

After commenting that "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come" is not one of the usual jazz or gangster story pictures, Cary Gratz, in Motion Pictures Today, adds:

"it will nevertheless be deeply enjoyed and appreciated for exquisite photography and settings, flawless acting and a tremendously interesting and generally intelligent motion picture."



A PASS FOR PEP TO PEP UP THOSE WHO PASS

Forty passes were given for Pep window tie-ups during the run of "A Texas Steer" by H. E. Yost of the Broadway Theatre, Santa Ana, Calif. A sample of co-operation from the Kellogg Company for exhibitors on this picture.



FEORA MARASCO

# "P-L-K" Still Season's Sensation



F ICTIONIZED, it might seem like a Horatio Alger story. In cold, commercial type, however, incoming wires on "The Patent Leather Kid" still tell of broken records, capacity business and satisfactory extensions of runs.

After playing to record openings, capacity second days and extraordinary runs on the Keith-Albee Circuit in Greater New York, the picture left the circuit despite a request for an extension of runs, because of the necessity of protecting bookings made by other exhibitors.

The Regent Theatre run in Newark, N. J. broke all existing house records, according to Lewis Stern who wired for the Stanley-Fabian Corporation. Edward Kadane of the Gem, Frederick, Okla., after witnessing a capacity opening, called it the "outstanding box office and audience attraction of the season."

Hundreds were turned away at the opening at the Royal Theatre, Little Rock, Ark.

The Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, Ala., saw its top business when "The Patent Leather Kid" opened there.

Patrons stood in line and sat in aisles when

### Worth \$1,000 a Reel

Writing on "The Patent Leather Kid" showing at his Palace Theatre, Chillicothe, Tex., R. H. Jeter says: "The last reel alone is worth \$1,000 of anybody's money."

they finally got into the Capitol, Sioux City. Extra chairs were inadequate to handle the crowds for the opening of "The Patent Leather Kid" there.

And the wires are still coming in by scores!



W. R. ROWELL DRESSES UP THE EL DORADO, EL DORADO, KANS., FOR A GALA EVENT.

Issued Semi-Monthly

# She Only Makes a Special Every Two Years and This Is It!





Jeannine and Capt. Philip Blythe, in the greatest romance of the war.

At the aerial head-quarters Jeannine prayed for the safety of the squadron.



The fatal crash—as the plane hit the ground and as the gasping spectators saw it.

The constant tramp of troops moving up to the front.

T WO great artists have combined talents to make the great-est of all romantic specials! Charming, inimitable Colleen Moore and Director George Fitzmaurice are the names that add lustre to the already wide box-office value of the Jane Cowl-Jane Murfin stage success, "Lilac Time." Heart interest—the greatest of all word-of-mouth-advertising media—is the keynote. As throbbing as the aerial motors of the Paitich equadron is the pulsating love story between a cantain of

British squadron is the pulsating love story between a captain of aviation and the little French girl on the Western front.

For sheer pictorial beauty and romantic splendor "Lilac Time" has never been surpassed. For aerial thrills, splendid char-acterization and vivid performances the picture marks a high spot of cinematic entertainment.

To obtain accurate scenes of aerial war and unusual thrills at 8,000 feet above ground the company established regular aerial headquarters camp and spent two months on location. Crack stunt flyers co-operated in making the scenes. Lives were risked and money was spent to obtain combat above the clouds as it has never been filmed before.

The result stands as a tribute to John McCormick who presents this special, to Director George Fitzmaurice, to Colleen Moore, the star, Gary Cooper, the leading man, and a long, notable cast.

For motion picture audiences "Lilac Time" will stand as a crowning glory of cinematic charm, a special big in name values -even bigger in entertainment satisfaction.



First National News

## ROMANCE, ACTION Talk Through The Posters



## "Lilac Time" Paper, Made to Ex ploit a Big Special, Hits on Every Box Office Angle

**F**ROM one-sheet to 24-sheet, the "Lilac Time" posters represent the most pretentious effort put forth by First National's publicity and advertising department.

They typify First National's policy of regarding the posters on every picture a separate problem. In the solution of these problems, mass creation has been forgotten. Every set of posters is regarded as a distinctive piece of work to be handled by the artist, layout man and copy writer best qualified to bring out the appeal of that particular picture.

The "Lilac Time" results show paper worthy of a big special. Outstanding is the emphasis placed upon the factors that will sell the picture to the public: the title, the same as the stage play which has endured for several years throughout the country, the star's name, admittedly exhibitors' best box-office draw, the name of the director and scenes illustrating the clutching romance of the story and the thrills and suspense of the aerial combat.

You get the heart appeal of parted lovers in the one-sheets and three-sheets and the scenic and emotional bigness of the aerial warfare in the 24sheet. You get the box-office kicks of the picture in the paper.

"Lilac Time" paper is as big as the picture, the finest special Colleen Moore has been starred in or that George Fitzmaurice has directed.



Two 24-sheets, two sixes, three threes and three ones constitute the battery of compelling persuasion for "Lilac Time." Illustrated at each side are two of the one-sheets that will tell the world the message of "Lilac Time."



24-SHEET



The dramatic climax of the picture, the parting of the aviation officer and the little French girl he loves, vividly portrayed by the three - sheet. Colleen Moore stars as the French girl with Gary Cooper as the likable, dare-deil ace of hidden skies. "The Patent Leather Kid," The Drop Kick, and 'The Noose' three exceptional successes within six months—definitely establish BARTHELMESS as the best male box-office star in pictures today, beyond any doubt!" — John F. Kumler, Manager, Pantheon Theatre, Toledo. . . .

From the best-seller by JOHN FOX, Jr., which has been read by millions.

Presented by RICHARD A. ROWLAND.

Adaptation and continuity by BESS MEREDYTH



Remember THAT when the First National salesman comes to see you about RICHARD BARTHELMESS in an Alfred Santell production "THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME"... A sweeping drama with the same type of character and story of "Tol'able David"... Featuring the new starfind, Molly O'Day.

# Lillums Loved Him-Someone Had To-So He Blundered Along-"HAROLD TEEN"

The Boob of a Billion Laughs Will Get You Too!

Carl Ed's Comic Strip Character, Known to 32,500,000 Newspaper Readers, **Provides One of Year's Funniest Films** with Arthur Lake in Titile Role

HEY didn't make them much dumber than Harold. He used his raincoat for a 24-sheet and his Ford was a wise-cracking radio.

The world rose and fell in lil' Lillums. The trouble was Harold got into a fight at school and didn't know enough to quit when he was beaten so they thought he was a glutton for punishment and took him into the fraternity. The first promise he had to make was not to "date" a girl for a week. And Lillums was coming to town that day.

He squared it finally after he put over his Harold Teen drag and his Gedunk sundae.

There's an abundance of exploitation material in this comedy, the dance, the sundae, the cartoon strip, the cast, the school movie of which Harold is the hero, the football game in which he almost scores a touchdown against his own side and the constant appeal to the younger generation. In actual clocked laughs the picture will back up any comedy predictions made for it.

Take our word for it-it's one of the rarest comedies in months. Arthur Lake personifies the cartoon character abs'lutely. And with him in the cast are: Mary Brian, Lucien Little-field, Alice White, Hedda Hopper, Jack Duffy and Jack Egan. Tom Geraghty adapted the story and Mervyn Leroy directed this Allan Dwan production for Robert Kane.



Harold Teen and Lillums thought Leaping Lena was great shakes! It was.



fight before. He thought the 20th Century locomotive hit him when Cousin Horace made a Firpo rush. The high school sheiks were ready to give Harold the razz but they had Giggles to contend with.



What happened when the high school followed Har-old's brain child and made a movie.

Harold had never been in a real

Or

1926

R GEDUNK SUNDAE

When Harold

Teen invented The Gedunk

Great Idea That Every Exhibitor Will

Have a Chance

Sundae he

Started a

To Cash In

On Shortly.

## "Lilac Time"

### Reviewed by Edwin Schallert

Editor of the Los Angeles Times Preview and Special Correspondent of Motion Picture News

Y OS ANGELES, March 17.- A new Colleen Moore is revealed in "Lilac Time." The little star of many farcical comedies gives a tender and sympathetic portrayal in this film adaptation of a stage success that won acclaim a few years ago with Jane Cowl in its principal role. Colleen has never had a finer chance to show what she can do as an actress than in this latest and, in many respects, most ambitious

production of her career. "Lilac Time" is easily more pretentious than anything that Miss Moore has appeared in since "Irene," and it has little or no resemblance to anything that she has played in since she became a popular hit in "Flaming Youth." Most of her pictures have been very light in theme and story, and several of her recent films so trivial

have been very light in theme and story, and several of her recent films so trivial in quality as hardly to advance her career. "Lilac Time" will enlarge her group of admirers. It proves what she can do as an interpreter of pathetic emotion. While there is no actual similarity between the two stars, one keeps thinking from time to time, on viewing the picture, of "Smilin" Through," in which Norma Talmadge appeared several years ago. The story of "Lilac Time" is about a little French girl and a British soldier in the air service. Colleen is the pet of the air forces, who are billeted in her parents' home. The soldier and she fall deeply in love, but he is forced to leave for the front, and mean-while the village where the girl lives is destroyed. The picture shows from stage to stage the obstacles that intrude upon their ro-mance. The plot is a very simple affair, turning time and again upon the heartbreak of their separation from each other, and threaded always upon the constancy of their love. There is no more sure-fire theme than this in the theatre. Practically every pic-ture that has expressed it in a beautiful way has been a great success. ture that has expressed it in a beautiful way has been a great success. "Lilac Time" has the additional attraction of some very fine air shots. Splendid

photography is evident, especially where cloud backgrounds are used for the airplane maneuvers.

George Fitzmaurice, who directed, has seldom made a finer picture. He shows a wealth of feeling in the love scenes, and those depicting the unhappiness of the two leading characters because of the fate that keeps them apart. There are several scenes that will stir audiences deeply. The picture is not devoid of comedy. There are some very funny episodes that

show Colleen as a mischief-maker. These will be liked by all who prefer the star in her lighter moods.

The picture is very well-balanced entertainment, and has a good supporting cast headed by Gary Cooper as the British aviator. It is a film with very strong points of appeal, and will increase Colleen's popularity even over heretofore.

(Reprinted from Motion Picture News)

### Played Up Where Will Rogers "Owns" the Town



In Laredo, Tex., where Will Rogers ranks on a par with the chief executive of the coun-try, Manager Jack Rowley played the star's name up big in playing "A Texas Steer" at his Rialto Theatre.

## Free Raincoats to 3 University Students

The students of the State University at Norman, Okla., were interested in the engagement of "The Patent Leather Kid" at the University Theatre through a tie-up with the Rose & Coker Men's Store, which makes a specialty of catering to the students. The store offered three raincoats free to the three students they fitted among those who registered at the store between 10 a. m. on Saturday and 10 a. m. on Monday. Two of the coats went to boys, the third to a girl.

## How One "Chaser" Did Another a Good Turn in Butte, Mont.



This delivery wagon got the street publicity for Harry Langdon in "The Chaser" at the Rialto, Butte, Mont. See the next column for the tie up that went with it.



Nevin and Frank of Butte, Mont., manufacture the best "chaser" in the country. They call it Moonshine Mix and it mixed perfectly with the Rialto's campaign on "The Chaser."







### AN ALLAN DWAN PRODUCTION

### **8 FAVORITES IN THE CAST-**

Alice White, Lowell Sherman, Larry Kent, Sally O'Neil, Donald Reed, Margaret Livingston, Norman Trevor and Tully Marshall. Presented by Robert Kane. Adaptation by Tom Geraghty. Directed by Joseph C. Boyle.

WESTERN

Boston, Mass.

THOMAS B. SPRY

WESTERN UNIOI

UNION

Mad Hour going over very well Olympia in spite

Ned. Depinet, N.Y.

business depression during Lent.

A. W. Smith, Jr., N.Y.

Salt Lake City, Utah Mad Hour opened Capitol capacity business. Audience inad riour opened Capitol Capacity Dusiness, Audience reaction most favorable, expressions proclaiming it Ned. E. Depinet, N. Y. reaction most ravorable, expressions proclaiming it unusual entertainment. Manager Carpenter states ununusual entertainment, Manager Carpenter states uni usual number of favorable comments received by him usual number of lavorable comments received by mm today and I concur in his and patrons opinion. Regards. WM. F. GORDON

WESTERN

Now add

10

SS OF SERVICE

Reviewed Mad Hour at Capitol last night. The house Ned E. Depinet, N.Y. is doing better than their average business. R. C. SEERY

WESTERN UNION

## Audiences enjoyed Mad Hour very much. Consensus of opinion was that it is just a little different. Baltimore, Md. -to the list of FRANK PRICE, Rivoli. First National's **PROVED** Money-Makers!

Chicago. Ill.

These First Four First-Run tests show that you can co on it for the same kind of profits exhibitors are making on "The Noose", "The Patent Leather Kid", "Burning Daylight" and "Ladies Night in a Turkish Bath!" . .

## Meet the "Harold Teen" Characters Via the Subtitles

**TUST** read the titles. You don't have to know anything more to know just how funny Harold Teen, his friends, relatives, sweetheart and school chums can be.

The title writer has painted the characters in sentences-each one a perfect fit and each one humorous.

Look these over and see if they give you a laugh. And in doing so meet the folk who are going to give you an even bigger laugh when you see the picture:

- Harold Teen . . . seventeen . . . that's all.
- Lillum Lovewell . . . just a downright, upright, all right girl.
- Grandpop Teen . . . an antique with a fresh coat of paint and new ball bearings.
- Cousin Horace . . . a big gun at school . . . small calibre . . . big bore.
- Giggles Dewberry . . . the perfect vamp-

Height . . . 5 ft. 2 Waist . . . 25 in. Neck . . . Yes

Goofy Gloot . . . the sort of fellow who goes up on the stage when the magician asks for someone.

Dad Jenks . . . a good mixer and a hail fellow always wet.

That's the "Harold Teen" crew. You'll find them a jolly lot, well worth knowing. And if your box-office isn't better off for their acquaintance why we miss our guess by many reels.



How the coming of winter (in Russia) affects the studio. For the first time Burbank and the hills behind it are covered with snow for the making of "Roulette," Fannie Hurst's story in which Richard Barthelmess is starred, which places its early action in Russia.

## Advertised a Contest on How to Advertise

J. P. Kincade, manager of the North Shore Theatre, Gloucester, Mass., offered a box of eight seats as a prize for the best suggestions as to how to advertise First National's Richard Barthelmess special, "The Patent Leather

Kid." The offer was made in a paid ad in the columns of the Gloucester Times. "Win a prize. Help us advertise!" was the heading of the display ad, two-columns wide by eight inches

deep. The day following the publication of the paper containing the ad, Mr. Kincade received a number of suggestions, including a poem on "The Patent Leather Kid," from a woman liv-

ing in Rockport. The newspaper published this poem announcing that it had won the contest.

#### Lina Basquette Signed

Lina Basquette, who won such public favor by her work opposite Richard Barthelmess in "The Noose" has been signed to play opposite him again, in his current picture "Roulette."

## "'Ladies Night' Is Amusing"

### "Film at the Mark Strand Contains Good Characterizations"

With the above head the New York Times praises "Ladies' Night in a Turkish Bath" cofeaturing Dorothy Mackaill and Jack Mulhall after its Saturday opening. In its review it goes on to say:

"From the title one might get the idea that this is the picture above all others to interest the young man home for a vacation from preparatory school. He did enjoy it, as a matter of fact, but not for the reason indicated. The picture itself is amusing . . .

"The characterization is good and most of the situations are funny. Especially pleasing is Pa Slocum (James Finlayson) who has a pipe, spectacles and a love of sleeping."

"Ladies' Night" was directed by Eddie Cline.

## Peeking Into the Lives of Burbank Celebs and a Star Exhibitor



GETTING READY FOR THE TITLE ROLE: So Jack Mulhall poses as "The Butter and Egg Man."



OME time back Manager Mike Mahan of Some time back Manager Mike Mahan of the Tower Theatre, St. Paul, staged a con-test. You may recall it, about adding six figures to make 21. It was published, along with the answer, in the last issue of First Na-tional News. Now comes photographic evi-dence of Mike's statement that the puzzler drew some 1,500 replies and that the fan-newspaper readers are still writing in for the correct answer. The contest was run in concorrect answer. The contest was run in con-nection with "The Patent Leather Kid." Manager Mahan and his secretary (above) had a day's work sorting out the morning's mail of replies.



BILLIE DOVE TAKES TIME OFF on the set to glance at First National News during "The Yellow Lily" production.

## William A. Seiter Directs Colleen Moore in "Heart to Heart"

Anna Q.Nilsson Returns to First National in Supporting Cast of "The Whip"

7ITH preview praises of the Fitzmaurice - Moore special already sounding, Colleen is looking ahead. Edmund Goulding's original story, "Heart to Heart," is her next picture, work on which has been already started. For this production William A. Seiter has been borrowed to direct. After that she will make a picture version of the highly successful misical comedy, "Oh Kay." This brings a happy reunion with Mervyn Leroy who, it will be recalled, won fame and prestige as comedy constructor, otherwise gag

man, for the Colleen Moore unit. Leroy, following the well earned plaudits of his comedy hit, "Harold Teen," will direct Miss Moore in "Oh Kay."

#### A FAVORITE RETURNS

Always popular with First National picture goers, Anna Q. Nilsson returns to the schedule in "The Whip," the Drury Lane melodrama in which Dorothy Mackaill has the featured role. Lowell Sherman is likewise a prominent member of the cast and Sam Rork is producing. Charles Brabin, who magnificiently directed Milton Sills in "The Valley of the Giants" and "Burning Daylight" will be at the megaphone.



KEN MAYNARD "GETS 'EM WILD"—but not in the Broadway sense, as he personally selects a good supporting cast for Tarzan in "The Upland Rider." You'll see the real Western untamed bronchos in this action picture.

#### CLINE'S NEW CINCH

Eddie Cline, who has just completed "Vamping Venus," is to direct Charlie Murray in "The Boss of Little Arcady" and judging by the success he has had with this comedian it's a cinch that another rarin' to go comedy will result. The story is by Harry Leon Wilson. Look over Cline's previous successes, "Ladies' Night in a Turkish Bath" and "Vamping Venus." You'll understand that this kind of comedy is simply a table d'hote menu in film for his talent.

### THE WESTERN BUYER

That effusive and (according to Broadway

## Eddie Cline to Direct Charlie Murray in "Boss of Little Arcady"

chorus girls) elusive Westerner, "The Butter and Egg Man" is on his way into celluloid. Jack Mulhall has the title role of the ready buyer, according to fiction, and Richard Wallace, who has just turned out the highly amusing "Lady Be Good," will direct. Despite an invitation to film the picture in Syracuse, N. 'Y., where most of the story action takes place, Wallace felt obliged to remain in the natural sunshine of Burbank for the constant continuity of scenes.

#### "ROULETTE"

Richard Barthelmess has been vacationing in Southern California, swimming, hunting and fishing. Now he's back at the studio ready for Director Alfred A. San-

ready for Director Alfred A. Santell's "Camera" on Fannie Hurst's "Roulette." The picture was at work during the week of the star's vacationing, occupied with some prologue scenes in which he was not required to participate. The story deals with twins of differing dress, hair and temperament, who migrate from the Balkans to America. A pretty kettle of fish for the League of Nations to arbitrate, perhaps; but guaranteed to make rattling good film entertainment.

#### A QUEEN'S ATTIRE

Worthy of a queen's wear is the gorgeous gown specially created for Corinne Griffith's role in "The Divine Lady." Made of the rarest Chantilly lace and silk, the gown is said to have cost \$2,200. Victor Varconi plays the part of Lord Nelson in the picture. Frank Lloyd is directing.



THE SUNDAE LINE-UP-Harold Teen establishes a new vogue in "The Gedunk Sundae." Incidentally in this and in the Harold Teen drag, he gives exhibitors some of the best exploitation angles ever offered with any picture.

# Film Talk of Today



Two Newcomers to First National

At the left, Benjamin Christianson, eminent Scandinavian director, who is handling the megaphone on the Milton Sills picture, "The Hawk's Nest." William A. Seiter, at the right, has won many laurels in this country and has been chosen to direct Colleen Moore in "Heart to Heart."

### Laugh This Off

UR own opinion is that the title in "Lady Be Good" that will get the most laughs is the one reading: "Engines whistle, autos honk; but a wife walks in without knocking"; but there are serious differences of opinion. Another holds for the one about: "I like animal acts better; they're not as dumb as magicians" while a third person roared when the magician referred to the modern Maurice as "Prancing Puppies." Which would indicate that anyway you look at it "Lady Be Good" has something in addition to the title of one of the most popular musical hits that ever lingered a year on Broadway.

### Fill Them Again

E. J. REKOW of the Crystal, Elbow Lake, Minn., passes along this good advice on "The Wagon Show" through Greater Amusements of Minneapolis: "Well, the only thing I can say is that Maynard has gone and done it again. When I am playing Ken's westerns I am always sure of a full house. How this fellow has come to the front! I can only say that this is the greatest up to date. If you haven't booked these, boy, get busy. They will make you big dough . . . rating 100 per cent." And this having a full house is one kind of "Fill Them Again" that the law will allow.

### Like an Election

R EPORTS from the West Coast make much of the fact that more than 1,000 cartridges were fired, blanks, of course, but the report is the same, during the shooting (literally and figuratively) of "The Hawk's Nest," starring Milton Sills. But a visitor from Chicago who was present at the time remarked that he felt just at home.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PIC-TURE?—When a puny little girl like Marion Douglas can bully a husky he-man like Ken Maynard around, the way she does in "The Upland Rider," there's only one answer. They're in love.

#### Comments

FROM widely distributed sources come individual tributes. Arthur James in Motion Pictures Today calls "The Noose" "big time entertainment and we recommend it to all exhibitors who would bring success to their houses." James Zartaludes of the Victorian, Sapulpa, Okla., says "The Patent Leather Kid" is "the most satisfying special that has played here. Pete Harrison says of "The Mad Hour" that "the first two reels are jazz doings . . . the remainder of the picture is so appealing that it is doubtful if there will be a dry eye in any house . . . Sally O'Neil does the best work in her screen career." And Edwin Schallert in a preview on "Lilac Time" in Motion Picture News, to be referred to elsewhere, says: "While there is no actual similarity between the two stars, one keeps thinking from time to time, on viewing the picture, of 'Smilin' Through' in which Norma Talmadge appeared several years ago."



(Left) WHAT LOOKS LIKE A DIRTY BIT OF PALMIS-TRY or a bit of dirty palmistry is really a serious dramatic moment between those sterling players, Jane Winton and Gustav von Seyffertitz in "The Yellow Lily," starring Billie Dove.

(Right) STEERING THEM INTO THE BIG SHOW, the Barker Himself—Milton Sills made up for the title role of the Kenyon Nicholson play which George Fitzmaurice will direct as a special during the spring.



## 18 First National Pathe News Issued Semi-Monthly Ken Maynard, Cavorting Caballero, Aids the Gallant Don





THE name making, claim jumping days of early New Mexico form the basis of "The Canyon of Adventure," Marion Jackson's thrilling story in which Ken Maynard is starred. Steven Bancroft, of the dare devil breed, represents the United States Government in urging the Mexican estate holders to register their properties with the new government. The mission calls for action in overcoming banditry and theft and for diplomacy in winning the confidence of the exclusive grandees to the new rule.

#### Enter the Senorita

Dolores Castanares is the beautiful daughter of one of these dyed-in-the-wool stand patters. Possibly her beauty had something to do with it. The fact remains that Bancroft goes to unusual extremes in protecting her father's property—and her own safety. Startling escapes, thrilling cliff jumps in which Tarzan figures and exciting hand to hand encounters mark the steady development of the drama in which the star enlists a gang of outlaws on the side of law and order.

#### The Star's There

As Bancroft, Ken Maynard makes a stalwart, appealing figure, one of the best screen roles he has had. Others in the cast are Virginia Faire Browne as the senorita, Eric Mayne, Theodore Lorch, Tyrone Brereton, Hal Salter, Billy Franey, and Charles Witaker. Albert Rogell directed with Harry J. Brown supervising.

## This Whole Page in House Organ Meant Money for the House



THE unprecedented monopoly of front page space that "The Patent Leather Kid" got on the pretentious 12 page, 12 by 18 inch house organ of the Hollywood Theatre, Dormont, Pittsburgh, Pa., meant money for the house and furnished one of the most unusual tributes given the entertainment values of this stupendous picture.

## A Word From the Winners

### M. S. Mock and A. C. Earps, Judging by Comments Have Cashed "Crazy Question" Checks

From two of the "Crazy Question Contest" winners announced in the last issue of the News have come letters indicating the safe arrival and satisfactory deposit of their prize winning checks. M. S. Mock of the American, Schaefferstown, Pa., who grabbed first money, has this

the American, Schaefferstown, Pa., who grapped first money, has this to say: "Was very much surprised to know that I had won first prize. This letter is to thank you, the judges and First National Pictures, Inc. You really cannot think how I feel." A. C. Earps of the Auditorium, Winston-Salem, N. C., who copped second place, comments as follows: "I was delightfully surprised to receive your check as second prize for my contribution to the 'crazy question' contest and wish to thank you most heartily for same. The check will serve as quite an inspiration should you start another contest of any kind in the future. With all good wishes for yourself and a big FIRST NA-TIONAL YEAR."

Within another month First National News will announce plans for another contest in which all exhibitors are invited to join.

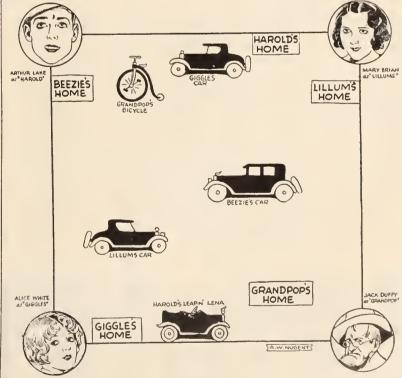
## The Year's News May 1

THE May I issue of First National News, off the press April 27, will carry the complete announcement of First National's 1928-9 product, embracing the most imposing line-up of

> **STARS** DIRECTORS STORIES and CASTS

ever presented at any one time in this industry. First National is anxious to have this copy of the News in the hands of every exhibitor as a constant booking guide throughout the year. If, for any reason you fail to receive First National News or know of any fellow exhibitor who is not receiving it, the name sent to the editor will insure the delivery of the May 1 Announcement Number by special mailing.

## No Walking-All Ride-But How?



The creator of First National's press sheets has evolved another puzzler, this time on "Harold Teen." After a high school play Harold, Lillums, Gramps, Giggles and Beezie all quarrel. They go home in separate cars without crossing any one else's path. How do they have to travel to accomplish this? If you give up and are sufficiently interested, you'll find the answer on page 21. The puzzle is included in the "Harold Teen" press sheet.

# SMEET MUSIC to any Showman's Ear!

What happens when Greek meets Sheik.

VE

ONEDY SPECTA A convulsing collection of classical cut-ups burlesquing the riotous revels of gay old gods.

A hen-pecked Irishman's dream of love among broad-minded goddesses in the days when knees-and points north-were wide open spaces, and Olympus was a wide-open town . . . But the dream turns to a nightmare when Mrs. Murphy enters in high dudgeon and a leopard skin as The Spirit of Bad News!

Unique combination of mass-appeal farce and gorgeous spectacle as beautiful as "Helen of Troy". A galaxy of gorgeous girls. And titles by RALPH SPENCE.

THE CONTRACTS ARE ROLLING IN!

It gives you these NAMES for your Marquee Lights-CHARLIE MURRAY LOUISE FAZENDA (Newly teamed for double laughs) and THELMA TODD (What a looker!) Presented by Richard A. Rowland Directed by Eddie Cline

### April 15, 1928

## This Gorilla Did Everything But Talk



A mechanical gorilla that moved its head, wig-wagged and did everything but screech, furnished the lobby exploitation for Manager Jack Rowley of the Rialto Theatre, Laredo, Texas. He was wise in putting this harmless anthropoid behind bars for the crowd that wanted to see how the wires worked, pressed so closely that working space was hard to secure. Trailers and slides supplemented the lobby ballyhoo on this special, which attracted a splendid audience during the run.

### First National Exchanges

Exchange

Albany Atlanta Boston Buffalo Calgary Charlotte Chicago Cincinnati Cleveland Dallas Denver Des Moines Detroit Indianapolis Kansas City Los Angeles Memphis Milwaukee Minneapolis Montreal New Haven New Jersey New Orleans New York Oklahoma City Omaha Philadelphia Pittsburgh Portland St. John St. Louis Salt Lake City San Francisco Seattle Toronto Vancouver Washington Winnipeg

#### Address

1056 Broadway 133 Walton Street 52 Church Street 505 Pearl Street 300 Traders Building 300 West Third Street 831 South Wabash Avenue Broadway and Pioneer Street 21st Street and Payne Avenue 308-310 South Harwood Street 2108 Broadway 1001 High Street 2300 Cass Avenue 120 W. Michigan Street 1712 Wyandotte Street 1918 South Vermont Avenue 500 South Second Street 1918 South Vermont Avenue 500 South Second Street 101-1st Avenue, North Albee Building, 12 Mayor Street 134 Meadow Street 729 Seventh Avenue 401 Tulane Avenue 729 Seventh Avenue 135. Robinson Street 1511 Chicago Street 1511 Chicago Street 1014 Forbes Street 401 Glisan Street 202 Jine William Street 203 Third Avenue 277 Victoria Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 971 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 971 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 971 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 971 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 971 Davie Street 970 Davie Street 

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### The Lesser Evil

FILM ACTRESS (to husband): "Cook has taken an intense dislike to you, dear. I do hope I shan't have to get rid of you."—Passing Show.

### Must Be O. K'd.

JONAH'S SHIPMATES: "Come on, we're going to cast you into the sea." JONAH (registering gnger): "Pill see the

JONAH (registering anger): "I'll see the casting director about this."—Life.

### How Come, How Come?

There are 25,000 motion picture theatres in the United States with seats for 11,000,000 people, says a Hollywood statistician. Yet the precious pair who must chatter with their movies have to pick out the two just behind you.—Owensboro (Ky.) Inquirer.

#### Top Prices

OLD FRIEND: "So you're making money in the movie game?"

WOULD-BE STAR: "You said it. I'm a dollar a-yeah man."-Life.

### Marriage by Proxy

MOVIE STAR: "I can never marry you, Joe, but-"

HE: "But what?"

MOVIE STAR: "If you'll come around at the studio tomorrow I'll introduce you to my double."—Everybody's Weekly.

### Nothing Rash

REPORTER: "What is your favorite flower?" MOVIE STAR: "I'm sorry, but when it comes to testimonials I must refer you to my manager."—Life.

#### Johnny's Own

When the little ingenue remarked that she was saving up for a rainy day Johnny Hines opined that she must be going to buy a sedan.



Reverting to the Harold Teen puzzle on page 19, you now see how Gramps, Harold, Lillums and Giggles and Beeze all get home without crossing each others' paths. And now you can have the fun of watching some one else work at this.

# Pictures That Are Making Money for the Biggest Houses in the Country

ATTRACTION

FOOTAGE

The	Dark	Angel	(Geo.	Fitzma	aurice-	Ronald	Colman-
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Vilma Banky)	_7311	feet
The Pace That Thrills (Ben Lyon-Mary Astor)		
Classified (Corinne Griffith)	_7150	feet
Why Women Love (Edwin Carewe)	_6570	feet
The Beautiful City (Richard Barthelmess)		
We Moderns (Colleen Moore)		
Clothes Make the Pirate (Sam Rork-Leon Errol)		
The New Commandment (Robert Kane Prod.)		
The Unguarded Hour (Milton Sills-Doris Kenyon)-		
The Scarlet Saint (Lloyd Hughes-Mary Astor)		
The Splendid Road (Frank Lloyd-Anna Q. Nilsson)	7518	feet
The Girl from Montmartre (Lewis Stone-Barbar LaMarr)	a 7074	feet
Infatuation (Corinne Griffith)		
Bluebeard's Seven Wives (Robt. Kane Prod.)		
Memory Lane (John M. Stahl Prod.)		
Too Much Money (Anna Q. Nilsson-Lewis Stone)		
Just Suppose (Richard Barthelmess)		
Rainbow Riley (Johnny Hines)		
The Reckless Lady (Belle Bennett-Lois Moran-Be	n	
Lyon-Lowell Sherman-James Kirkwood)	_7223	feet
The Far Cry (Blanche Sweet-Jack Mulhall)	_6795	feet
Irene (Colleen Moore)	_8398	feet
The Dancer of Paris (Robt. Kane Prod.)	_6138	feet
Her Second Chance (Anna Q. Nilsson)	_6326	feet
Tramp, Tramp, Tramp (Harry Langdon)	_5831	feet
High Steppers (Edw. Carewe Prod.)	_6061	feet
Mlle. Modiste (Corinne Griffith)	_6061	feet
The Greater Glory (June Mathis Special)		
Kiki (Norma Talmadge)	_8291	feet
Old Loves and New (Sam Rork-Marion Fairfa	X 7422	fact
Prod.)	-1423	Teer
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### ATTRACTION

FOOTAGI

ATTRACTION	FOOTA	GE
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The Lunatic at Large (Leon Errol)	5521	teet
The Lady in Ermine (Corinne Griffith)	6448	teet
The Perfect Sap (Ben Lyon)	5981	feet
The Overland Stage (Ken Maynard) The Masked Woman (Nilsson-Blinn-Murray)	6389	feet
The Masked Woman (Nilsson-Blinn-Murray)	5434	feet
McFadden's Flats (Murray-Conklin)	7846	feet
An Affair of the Follies (Dove-Stone-Hughes)	6443	feet
Easy Pickings (Anna Q. Nilsson)	6440	feet
The Sea Tiger (Milton Sills)	5606	feet
Orchids and Ermine (Colleen Moore)	6710	foot
Utint Het (Line Drive Hender)	0/19	feet
High Hat (Lyon-Brian-Hardy) Three Hours (Corinne Griffith)	01/5	ieet
Three Hours (Corinne Grimth)	5761	teet
Venus of Venice (Constance Talmadge)	6324	teet
The Notorious Lady (Stone-Bedford)	6040	feet
Somewhere in Sonora (Ken Maynard)	5711	feet
All Aboard (Johnny Hines)	6302	feet
Long Pants (Langdon)	5555	feet
Convoy (Mackaill-Sherman)	7689	feet
See You in Jail (Jack Mulhall-Alice Day)	5703	feet
The Tender Hour (Geo. Fitzmaurice Prod.)	7200	feet
Dre 1 N' 14 (II who Wilson)	/J99	foot
Broadway Nights (Hardy-Wilson) Babe Comes Home (Babe Ruth-Anna Q. Nilsson	0//1	feet
Babe Comes Home (Babe Ruth-Anna Q. Nilsson	)5/01	ieet
The Land Beyond the Law (Ken Maynard)	6157	teet
Framed (Milton Sills)	5258	teet
Framed (Milton Sills) Lost at the Front (Murray-Sidney)	5255	feet
The Sunset Derby (Wm. Collier, JrMary Astor Dance Magic (Robt. Kane Prod.)	)5016	feet
Dance Magic (Robt, Kane Prod.)	6537	feet
Naughty But Nice (Colleen Moore)	6548	feet
Naughty But Nice (Colleen Moore) The Devil's Saddle (Ken Maynard)	5430	feet
I ne Devit S Sadule (Kell Maylard)	5722	foot
Lonesome Ladies (Stone-Nilsson) The Prince of Headwaiters (Stone) White Pants Willie (Johnny Hines)	6400	foot
The Prince of Headwaiters (Stone)	0400	feet
White Pants Willie (Johnny Hines)	6322	teet
The Poor Nut (Mulhall-Murray)	6893	teet
The Poor Nut (Mulhall-Murray) The Stolen Bride (Dove-Hughes) For the Love of Mike (Robt. Kane Prod.)	7144	feet
For the Love of Mike (Robt. Kane Prod.)	6565	feet
Smile, Brother, Smile (Mackaili-Mulhall)	0069	teet
Hard Boiled Haggerty (Milton Sills)	7443	teet
Three's a Crowd (Harry Langdon) Camille (Norma Talmadge)	5668	feet
Comille (Norma Talmadge)	8692	feet
The Red Raiders (Ken Maynard)	6214	feet
The Red Raiders (Ren Maynaid)	6712	feet
The Life of Riley (Murray-Sidney) The Drop Kick (Richard Barthelmess)	6910	foot
The Drop Kick (Richard Barthelmess)	0019	feet
American Beauty (Billie Dove) Rose of the Golden West (Geo. Fitzmaurice)	0333	ieet
Rose of the Golden West (Geo. Fitzmaurice)	6477	teet
The Crystal Cup (Mackaill-Mulhall) Breakfast at Sunrise (Constance Talmadge)	6386	feet
Breakfast at Sunrise (Constance Talmadge)	6042	feet
Gun Gospel (Ken Maynard)	0200	reet
No Place to Go (Astor-Hughes)	0431	teet
Home Made (Johnny Hines) Man Crazy (Mackaill-Mulhall)	6254	feet
Man Cragy (Mackaill Mulhall)	5542	feet
The Caville (Charlie Mymere)	7133	feet
The Gorilla (Charlie Murray)	7410	feet
A rexas Steer (will Rogers)	6226	feet
The Valley of the Gants (Minton Sills)	7200	foot
The Love Mart (Dove-Fitzmaurice Prod.)	/300	Teer
French Dressing (Wilson-Warner-Brooke) Shepherd of the Hills The Private Life of Helen of Troy (Stone-Co	0344	feet
Shepherd of the Hills	8188	teet
The Private Life of Helen of Troy (Stone-Co	rda-	5
The Noose (Richard Barthelmess)	7129	teet
Spilors' Wives (Astor-Hughes)	5484	teet
The Whin Woman (Estelle Taylor-Antonio Morel	10)_5087	ieet
The Chaser (Harry Langdon) The Wagon Show (Ken Manyard)	5744	feet
The Under (Harry Langdon)	6212	feet
The Patent Leather Kid (Richard Barthelmess)	11 414	feet
The Patent Leather Kid (Kichard Darthelmess)	6161	feet
Flying Romeos (Charlie Murray)	6625	foot
The Mad Hour (Allan Dwan Prod.)	00000	fact
Burning Davlight (Milton Sills)	0500	ieet
The Head of a Follion (Sirl (Billio Dove)	3437	reet
The Big Noise (Allan Dwan-Chester Conklin)	7402	ieet
Ladies' Night in a Turkish Bath (Mulhan-Mackan	1) 0392	feet
The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come (Rich	naro	
Barthelmess	7700	feet
Chipatown Charlie (Johnny Hines)	0305	teet
The Canyon of Adventure (Ken Maynard)	5696	feet
Lady Be Good (Mackaill-Mulhall)		feet
Vomping Venus (Charlie Murray)		feet
Vamping Venus (Charlie Murray) Harold Teen (Allan Dwan's Prod.)		feet
Harold Teen (Allan Dwan's Prod.)		1000



With Hedda Hopper, Jack Duffy, and Jack Eagan Adaptation by Tom Geraghty

#### ALLAN DWAN'S production of "HAROLD TEEN" with Star Cast

Full-length feature comedy from Carl Ed's famous comic strip syndicated to 32,000,000 readers in 800 papers. The first authentic lowdown on the humorous side of supermodern youth, their wisecracks and their waywardness.

#### BARTHELMESS in THE LITTLE SHEPHERD

OF KINGDOM COME Almost a duplicate of "Tol" able David". Re-unites the famous love-pair of "The Patent Leather Kid"— Barthelmess and Molly O'Day. An Alfred Santell production.

## VAMPING VENUS

#### CHARLIE MURRAY

fightime burlesque of the gay oings on of ancient gods and oddesses, Louise Fazenda, Thelma Todd and a galaxy of ood lookers, Magniheently nounted, Titles by Ralph inence.

Never mind the small fry-

MAN

First National Showmen are out for Big Game!

They learned about Profits from "The Patent Leather Kid", "Helen of Troy", "The Noose"

Now they're too smart to stand for carfare flickers.

They're coming to the company that showed them how—and asking for more of the same.

And they're getting 'em-

Colleen Moore in "Lilac Time", Richard Barthelmess in "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come", "VampingVenus", with Charlie Murray, "Ladies' Night in a Turkish Bath", with Dorothy Mackaill and Jack Mulhall, Elinor Glyn's "Mad Hour", "Harold Teen", from Carl Ed's nationally famous comic strip, Milton Sills in "Burning Daylight".

BEAR

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